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(a)-(d) and 35 U.S.C. 365 of International Application No. PCT/EP00/02240, filed 14 March 2000, which was published in German as International Patent Publication No. WO 00/58072 on 5 October 2000, which is entitled to the right of priority of German Patent Application No. 199 14 143.6, filed 27 March 1999.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following at line 9 on page 1 of the specification.

A⁴ --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following at line 35 on page 1 of the specification.

A⁵ --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following between lines 7 and 9 on page 2 of the specification.

A⁶ --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Figure 1 is a schematic representation of a longitudinal section of a double-shaft extruder of an apparatus according to the present invention.

A⁶ DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace line 1 of page 5 of the specification with the following.

A⁷ --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-22 without prejudice.

Please add the following Claims 23-46.

--23. An apparatus for degassing plastic materials comprising a double-shaft extruder, said double shaft extruder comprising:

- A⁸
- (i) two shafts rotating in the same direction and meshing with one another;